

Rural Income from Organic Wild Collection

Economic Empowerment of Women in the Upper West Region of Ghana



Presentation by

Georgina Koomson

Ideal Providence Farms, P.O. Box CT 1225, Accra/Ghana

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Outline of Presentation

- Where is the Upper West Region in Ghana?
- Baseline information before project
- Processes involved in the collection of shea nuts and the processing of the shea butter
- How Women are involved in the organic wild collection
- Economic benefits to women in that industry
- Challenges

BURKINA FASO

Republic of Ghana

Golf of Guinea / West Africa

LA COTE D'IVOIRE



- Area: 238.537 km²
- Population: 20 Mio
- Capital: Accra
- Habours: Tema, Takoradi
- Per Capita Income (2003): 366 USD
- Independence: 6. March 1957
- Government: Constitutional Democracy
- Currency: Cedi (GHC)
- Climate: Tropical (South), Semi-arid (North)
- Local Time: GMT

Distance
 Accra – Wa: 800 km / 14 h

Volta Lake
 Largest Artificial Lake of the World

Baseline information before the project

- Meaning of no effective economic activities in the rural area
- Illiteracy among the women was 95%
- Very low economic activity for women
- Average income level among the population was 0.5 US Dollar per day only
- Very low production levels of shea butter
- Poor marketing outlets for shea butter
- School drop out among girl child
- Lack of day care centre in the community

Processes involved in nut collection and butter making

The Shea nut tree (*Vitellaria paradoxa*) and its fruits



Nut

Fresh Fruit



Processes involved in nut collection and butter making (cont.)

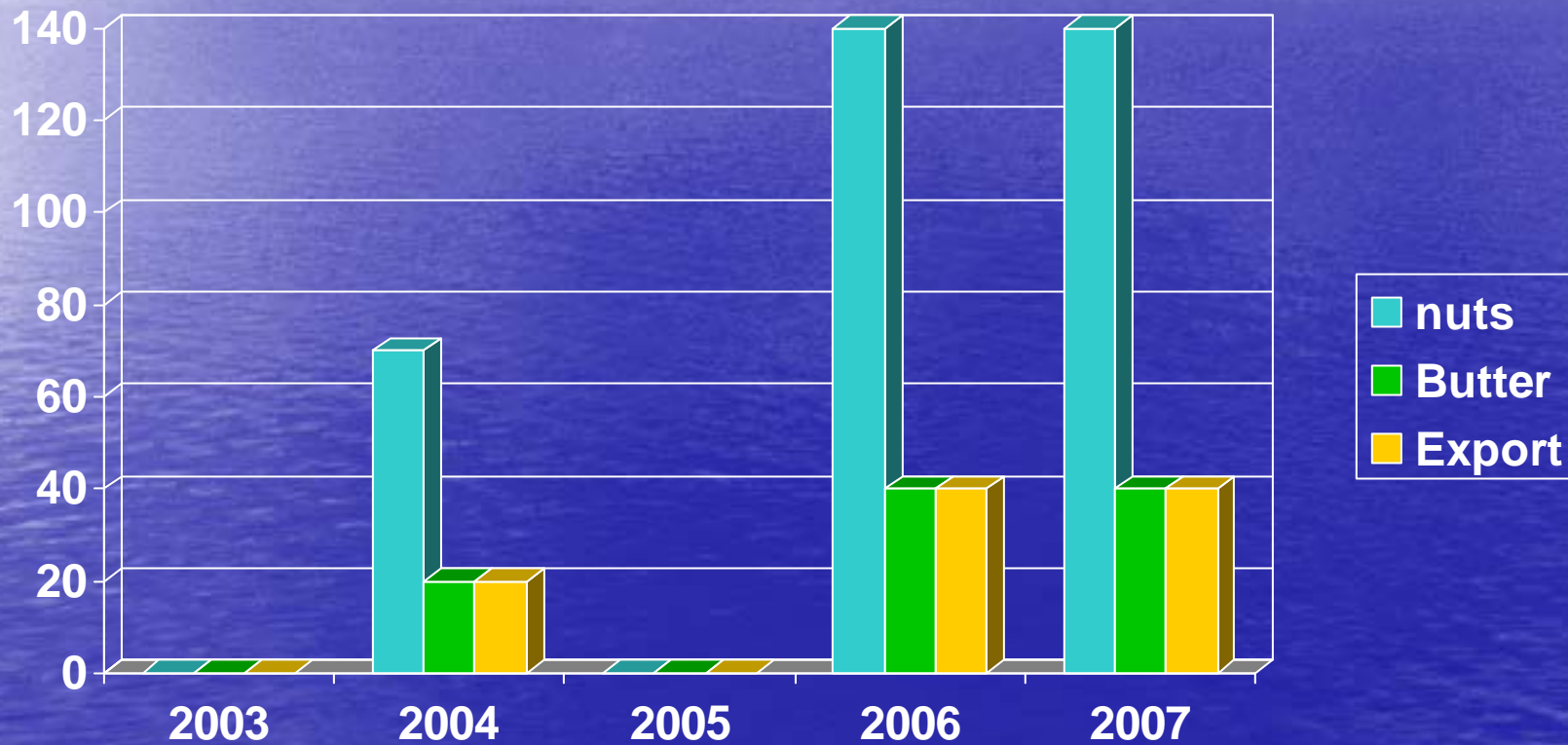


How women are involved

- This involves 200 women
- Covering 1000 farming families
- Women are the collectors of the nuts
- Women are the processors of the butter
- Women are marketing the butter
- Women lead and male support

Export volumes

(in 000 tons)



Socio-economic Benefits



- Individual income level has increase more than 90%
- Funds available for development within the community
- Girl child education has improved

Challenges

- Initial investment costs
- Inter-personal relationship
- Time consuming travel and high cost of transportation
- Democratic chaos

Contact

Ideal Providence Farms

P.O. Box CT 1225

Accra

Ghana (West Africa)

Email: ipfghana@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile: +233-24-4664572

Fax: +233-21-812736